WOMEN OF THE HOUR

1934-84

Bethel College

Bethel College Women's Association

PREFACE

How long is fifty years? It's from President FDR to Reagan, and seven men between. From Kaufman to Schultz, and three presidents between. From the last of the Model A Fords to spaceships. From a midpoint in Bethel's history to the threshold of a centennial.

For Bethel College Women's Association, it is birth, growth, and continuing education. Fifty years ago a college president called on community women to enlist in the support of Bethel College. This account tells of the origin and involvement of the organization created in response to his appeal. It is a story with ups and downs, with successes and missed opportunities, but one solid line runs through its story--loyalty. How many women were involved through the years is not a matter of record, but their contributions are impressive.

This fifty year story falls naturally into three parts: first, an exuberant beginning; second, a faltering low period; and third, a revival and moving ahead. Source material was found chiefly in the minutes of the Association, some of which are in Mennonite Library and Archives, and some as yet unclasssified. Newspapers tell part of the story. Among the women interviewed are several who can remember the first meeting of the group half a century ago, and others recall the time when the Association wavered and almost collapsed. Women still involved shared their impressions.

But memory is a fleeting source, and it is wise to write down what has happened. Our committee hopes you will find in reading WOMEN OF THE HOUR an interesting report of what has gone on before and direction for the future.

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I.
FOUNDING

"On February 21, 1934, a group of 53 ladies from the Bethel and First Mennonite Church gathered in the auxiliary room of the Home for the Aged to take preliminary steps toward the organization of a Women's Auxiliary to Bethel College. Mrs. Richard S. Haury acted as chairman."

These words neatly handwritten in the secretary's book record the beginning of an organization that would become a behind-the-scenes, faithful promoter of the college.

Times were difficult for Bethel and the nation as a whole. The depression was more than figurative speech; it threatened the existence of small colleges and businesses nationwide. Farmers who supplied much of Bethel's financial support were talking about 25 cents wheat, and many laborers locally were grateful for jobs that paid $1 per day. Young people postponed going to college because of tight finances at home.

To increase interest and support of Bethel in the Fall of 1933, the college published a brochure which informed prospective students that full cost of one semester at Bethel would be $153, down $10 from the previous year. Enrollment that Fall was 198.

Dr. E.G. Kaufman, president of the college during those troubled financial times, had seen hospital auxiliaries perform assisting roles for their institutions, and had concluded Bethel needed such a supportive body. He approached Mrs. R.S. Haury, former speech and physical culture instructor at Bethel and a prominent Newton woman, to ask for her assistance.

Linda Haury, a member of the Newton school board, active church member and lay visitor, key force in the Bethel Hospital Auxiliary, and a charter member of the exclusive community Ladies' Reading Circle, was an excellent choice to be the first president of the Bethel College Women's Association (BCWA).

Her community experiences and associations with the town's key figures combined with her personal qualities made her exceptionally well suited for this job. She was described by her associates as a dignified person, stately, refined, natural, and one who always looked the lady. Her

studies at the Emerson School of Expression undoubtedly added to her poised public appearance. Motivated by a high sense of responsibility, she provided a model of leadership to those who worked with her, particularly to younger women.

At this first meeting, it was not surprising that Dr. Kaufman was the speaker, promoting the establishment of the Association. Martha Goerz (R.A.) and Mary Suderman (H.E.) spoke about the kinds of projects and plans they might carry out. They had receptive listeners.

The NEWTON KANSAN reported a week later: "Long years ago when Bethel College was just in its beginnings (in fact, even the present main building had not been erected) an organization of young women and girls was organized by Mrs. B. Warkentin who placed the seal of their approval and helpfulness upon the college. Now some of the girls who have grown to womanhood are taking up the torch laid down by the college as they have been doing in Bethel Hospital and in the Bethel Home for the Aged."

The group of girls referred to were known as the Bell Club, because they raised funds for the first bell system in the college. One of their members, Linda Krehbiel (Haury) became the first president of BCWA.

By their second meeting on March 12 the women were ready to adopt a constitution prepared by Martha Goerz (R.A.), Anna Epp and Eva Harshbarger (E.L.). The goal of the organization according to the constitution was:

> "to intensify the interest of the women of Newton and vicinity in the welfare of Bethel College; to develop the advantages of young women students of the college; to promote the interest of Bethel College in various communities; to cooperate in projects in which women may find a field for useful service."

Officers elected at that meeting were Linda Haury, president; Helene Goertz (P.S.) first vice president; Mary Suderman, second vice president; Hermina Haury (A.O.), treasurer; and Joanna Andres (H.J.), secretary. Members of the governing board were Martha Goerz, Frieda Regier (J.G.) and Sister Frieda Kaufman.

Reports of the membership drive followed. The women had spent a busy three weeks soliciting members. Delia Haury (G.A.) was awarded a box of chocolates for bringing in the most members, although the secretary noted parenthetically that the award should have been given to the president. Fifty-six women signed the constitution that day, and by the end of April 206 names appeared as charter members. By the end of the first year, 540 persons made up the membership list.

Women had a choice of three membership categories: (1) Payment of $1 only, (2) Willing to help when asked, (3) Willing to help occasionally.

Bethel senior girls were considered courtesy members without payment of dues. Also built into the listing for members was a lifetime membership available for $25, and the giving of memorial memberships for the same amount was encouraged. Open for women only at first, memorial gift donations were enlarged later to include men's names as well.

Monthly programs preceding the business meetings provided a platform for young musicians, for faculty members who had traveled or worked on special projects, and activities of common interest to the community. They were announced ahead of time in the NEWTON KANSAN with the notation, "Ladies please bring cup and spoon", and faithfully reported to the paper after each meeting.

Fund Raising

Not one word about fund raising was stated in the constitution, but early members recall clearly that "making money" was what it was all about. Accordingly, at the first meeting a motion was unanimously passed to serve the Rotary Club banquet three weeks later. Thus was launched a pattern of meal catering that was to continue unabated for many years, with the Rotarians being a frequent source of income.

While the business of the Association was conducted efficiently and with dignity, the dinner committees by contrast became the pivot of the nitty-gritty work of the organization.

Catering meals for several hundred people was anything but simple. Although women prepared as much as possible at home and brought the finished product to the serving places, much remained to be done. For one meal provided in the Newton city building, potatoes were cooked and mashed at Bethel College, transported in kettles covered with woolen blankets to keep food warm until served, the kitchen of a nearby Baptist Church utilized for some of the cooking, and women supplied the rest from their homes. The home cooking was very often donated food.

On other occasions women lugged tables and chairs out into the pasture behind the Administration Building to seat the crowds. Drinks, "strawberry pop, not alcoholic drinks," were cooled in numerous ice-filled tubs at song festivals held at the college. One of the largest challenges was feeding delegates and visitors at numerous Western District conferences on campus.

Women took pride in baking rolls, which soon became their specialty, although they admitted sometimes the rolls were not of bragging quality. Another item for which they didn't boast on one occasion was cabbage slaw prepared in the morning which took on a sauerkraut flavor by the evening of a hot day. They learned by doing.

Guests at Association dinners often felt they were dining in style as the menus featuring home cooking and home quality were served with elegance. Minutes of April 27, 1934 record the menu for an alumni banquet:

Veal Ham
New Potatoes Corn ala Southern
Cabbage-tomato Salad
Rolls, butter, jam Coffee
Icecream topped with strawberries

Cooking abilities were also used for non-profit. The minutes reveal acceptance of two recommendations that committed them to "entertain in the near future those students of Bethel College who board themselves", and "larger groups of students sometime in February."

Hours put into serving meals were long and arduous, but what made the projects successful was the cooperation of the workers and the congenial, friendly associations fostered in working together. The enthusiasm was to be dimmed as the

months of labor turned into years and the number of workers decreased. But that is a later part of the story.

There was no set pattern for accomplishing tasks, and women were typically given assignments, including the cooking detail. Other non-profit and non-enjoyable jobs in early years were cleaning bathrooms in the dormitories and cleaning trailer houses for married students to use.

Forms of raising money in addition to banquet serving were called for. An efficient bazaar committee was put into action. Women sponsored food sales, cookie sales, and a rummage sale which netted $48.25, "a nice profit." One time they sponsored a home talent play, "Miss Blue Bonnet," with a cast of chorus girls, frogs, little doctors, and little girls.

Sponsoring guest speakers was another form of fund raising, although not the most lucrative for either speaker or Association. Dr. E.L. Harshbarger, returned from a summer in Europe after the war, spoke to an audience charged 25 cents a piece. He was paid a $5 fee, which he graciously insisted the organization keep.

At another time the women entered a window decorating contest sponsored by Hogan's store. They won $5 for third prize.

One of the problems for the fledgling organization was how to pay their bills. Their constitution said all bills had to be paid by check, a restriction the treasurer found inconvenient. She reported, "On account of the new regulations by the banks, we thought it might be advisable to pay some of our various small bills by cash instead of by check and in that way avoid some of the charges against our account, since our balance is not sufficient for the credit, which the bank allows, to offset the monthly charge." They changed the constitution to allow that cash payment, only to have an auditing committee advise them to return to payment by check.

To be part of the women's council in the early organization was to some an early member recalled as "awakening of the women's movement;" many were beginning to see they could do something outside their homes. Caught up by the challenge, some women found through the BCWA they could organize, manage, make plans, solicit and earn money, and decide how to spend money. To others it was a chance to

meet townspeople, and find beauty in working together with women of the community. There was a feeling of pride that, "We could invite anyone to attend the meetings." Many enjoyed the special programs planned for them.

The time was right for them to reach out.

Cooperation Through Projects

Fund raising, of course, was only the means to an end. The joy of fund raising was in deciding where to spend the money, and there was no shortage of suggestions both from within and outside the organization.

The first large project undertaken by the Association was to provide funds for the rebuilding of the chapel organ. On February 24, 1936, it was voted to undertake the rebuilding of the pipe organ at a cost of approximately $3,000, which E.G. Kaufman said "would give us a first class pipe organ."

In September of that year the NEWTON KANSAN reported the recital on the new Reuter organ in the remodeled chapel. "The work was inspired and carried through by the Bethel College Women's Association, a comparatively young organization of which Mrs. J.E. Regier is the president."

On the side of the organ was a plaque which read:

PIPE ORGAN
PRESENTED BY
THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OF BETHEL COLLEGE
DEDICATED SEPT. 18, 1936

Improvement of the college kitchen and its working equipment was a priority for the women time and again, as they sympathized with workers who prepared large meals with less than adequate supplies. The second project of the Association was to allot $1,000 for the kitchen, and in varying amounts and times kitchen projects stood high on the list of imperatives. A large refrigerator and a stove were two of the big items purchased. At another time 34 tablecloths for Memorial Hall were provided, as was new tile for the dining room floor. Silverware and dishes were added.

Service projects frequently called on women's sewing skills. An afternoon in October 1938 was spent sewing for the college in the science hall. Vestments were stitched for the choir. Less enjoyable were the mending chores which frequently fell to their charge.

One of the largest custom assignments in 1942 was drapes for Memorial Hall. The projected cost was $150, and because of rising prices it was decided to buy the materials as soon as possible, even though they did not have the funds on hand. At this point, they contacted area mission circles to help in the funding, with those groups giving them $154.01. This is the first record of their reaching out beyond their own group for help, and it was accompanied by a discussion of whether those societies should be considered members of the Association. No action was taken.

Lucille Friesen, BCWA president from 1943-45, guided the work of the women in a direction which in all probability had its origin during World War II. Church women at that time canned foods for Civilian Public Service Camps. BCWA called for similar canning of fruits and vegetables for the college. Canning days were set up at Memorial Hall as truckloads of fresh fruits arrived. Cherries, apricots, and pears were canned, but women complained they never knew what condition the fruit would be in until the trucks came. If the fruit was too green to be handled, their carefully arranged canning days had to be postponed. Over 1,400 jars were canned in the summer of 1943. In addition, 285 chickens were processed for the locker. Members recall the wife of the college president was as heavily involved in the sticky, unpleasant tasks as were the rest of the Association members. The organization had written to mission circles asking families in the churches to donate one quart of home processed food for the college, and many responded. Potatoes, onions, and a 25-pound crate of raisins were given also.

In the Fall of 1945, the Women's Association made the most encompassing project of its ten-year history. They pledged $50,000 for the proposed new dormitory for women. For a group which had earlier been pleased with profits of $48 and less, $50,000 was certainly a large undertaking.

Bazaars were stepped up for fund raising efforts with various kinds of needlework being created and sold. Dinners

and catering continued as the chief source of funds, as bit by bit the totals grew. The dormitory was obviously of much interest to the women, and they had many discussions about what it should be named and where it should be located. They met with students living in the old dormitory to ask what improvements they would like, and what suggestions they would have for the new one.

Dr. Kaufman kept careful eye on the finances of the organization. On October 27, 1947, the secretary wrote, "Mrs. Entz read a letter from President Kaufman in which he suggested that money which the Association now has invested in bonds be turned over to the college so that he can show it on his books which will in turn help the rating of Bethel College with the North Central Association." Kaufman was not averse to making suggestions on how to use the organization's money, early members recall.

In turn, the president was their contact person, and by all indications women felt free to approach him at will. In November, 1949, the organization went on record that the president should include in his recommendation to the board "that there should be representation of women on the board." It was 3 years later that Helene Riesen Goertz (P.S.) became the first woman on that body. When Dr. Kaufman resigned as president, the Women's Association held a special meeting to discuss what they considered "important qualifications of possible candidates for the presidency of Bethel College."

However, the most important point of concern for the Association at this time was the dormitory goal of $50,000. Over ten years went by before the entire sum was raised in time for the ground breaking on March 18, 1957. When the building was completed there was solid evidence that the contribution of the women did not go unnoticed. In the entry hall of the dormitory was a large plaque which read:

THIS WOMEN'S RESIDENCE HALL
STANDS AS A LIVING MEMORIAL
TO MEMBERS OF THE
BETHEL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
WHOSE UNTIRING EFFORTS FROM 1945-1958
HELPED TO MAKE THIS

"CHRISTIAN HOME AWAY FROM HOME"
A REALITY.
MAY THEIR DEVOTION, SERVICE, AND SACRIFICE
AT BETHEL COLLEGE
BE AN INSPIRATION TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

"AND THEIR WORKS DO FOLLOW THEM" (REVELATION 14:13)

No sooner was the dormitory dedicated than a new, related project was given to the women. There had been little money for extras, one of which was a proposed "kliene Kapelle", a little chapel or prayer room. The estimated $5,000 cost was pledged by the Association.

Whether the costs for making and hanging drapes for the entire dormitory had been budgeted is not clear, but it is hardly surprising that once more the college turned to the Women's Association for help. "Bethel College Women's Association has been offered the opportunity to make the drapes for the windows in the 51 rooms of the new dorm," wrote the secretary. She also noted that the motion to accept the opportunity "overwhelmingly carried" a month later.

Another unique opportunity came about in 1959 when the college received notice that due to its having no faculty woman with a PH.D., the school would not be on the recommended list of the American Association of University Women. The Bethel Association encouraged college administration to proceed in upgrading the institution in the manner recommended. To undergird their support, BCWA set up a scholarship fund for a woman faculty member with a master's degree to continue her education. The fund of $3,000 was apparently not tapped during the first two years, so the qualifications for grant candidates were revised to assist any female student who wished to work toward an advanced degree. This was clearly in keeping with their constitutional goal of "developing the advantages of young women students" and in the interests of the college. However when the AAUW lifted their restrictions in 1963, the Bethel Women's Association liquidated their fund and diverted the money to remodel the kitchen. When the constitution was later revised, the goal of developing advantages for young women was deleted.

II.
FALTERING

Bethel College Women's Association celebrated its 25th birthday on April 27, 1959, with a supper meeting in the Fellowship Hall of the Bethel College church. The secretary reported that eleven dinners had been served that year, and a bake sale and bazaars were smaller fund raisers. Membership stood at 202.

As early as 1950, minutes were to record difficulties and frustration in the steady and laborious method of raising money chiefly by serving meals. Although nothing more would be written officially for a decade, it was obvious the problem was not being solved.

On February 27, 1961, the minutes read: "The problems of the banquet committee were discussed...There is a need for more workers." Two weeks later the board moved to have the program committee plan fewer programs than in previous years. The Association was feeling the pressures of too much work carried on by too few persons.

At the college dining hall, the foods staff had been quite aware of the heavy burdens a few women were carrying in the serving of banquets and of the difficulty of trying to find room in the kitchen at the same time college personnel had to carry on their tasks. The staff then made a proposal to the Women's Association that they would help with the labor for a 50/50 split of proceeds, their half to be given to the kitchen. Their offer was quickly accepted.

To add further complications, students began voicing their annoyance that the student union facilities were too often being taken over when the frequent dinners were being served by BCWA. The college president, a bit more sympathetic to the women than the students, advised the students to put up with "minor inconveniences."

In spite of increasing difficulties, the Association continued to accept assignments. One to which the women could relate was the annual Mennonite Folk Festival established by Mennonite Library and Archives. Although BCWA was not part of the earliest festivals, they became part of the program with a booth which featured various kinds of needlework as a typical example of folk art. As

the festivals continued the Association provided what the minutes referred to as an "expanded bazaar." This was a forerunner of the 1966 "Kaffee Katsch" which combined bazaar and ethnic foods, and for which members of the Association worked with women of surrounding churches under the auspices of the historical library.

When the college and Western District conference decided to establish a district church center on campus in 1964, Women's Association agreed to provide the financing. The NEWTON KANSAN reported: "The new center will house the offices of the Bible department of Bethel College and the Western District conference minister. Adolf Ens, instructor in Bible at Bethel, and Rev. Elmer Friesen, Western District conference minister, will have their offices on the first floor."

"Also located on the first floor will be a center for religious activities and meetings of church related groups. These groups will possibly include the Bethel College Women's Association, Church Workers Fellowship, and Student Christian Fellowship."

"Remodeling of the college and district center was financed by the Bethel College Women's Association. The group contributed $3,000 for the project."

In 1965 the Art and Folk Festival mentioned earlier was dedicated to the Fine Arts Center under construction. As could be expected, BCWA was much interested in the new building. Their contribution of $1,400 was designated for furnishing the art lounge and the kitchen in the Center. The lounge furniture was given in honor of Mrs. Richard S. Haury, the Association's first president. Her daughter, Mildred Brandt, an active Association supporter, acknowledged the honor in a note to BCWA.

February 7, 1966

Dear Mrs. Loganbill and Members of the BCWA,

My sisters, Mrs. Walter B. Enns, Mrs. Harold Regier, and I wish to express our gratitude to you for the wonderful tribute you extended to our mother's honor, Mrs. Richard S. Haury, in purchasing furniture for a lounge in the Bethel College Fine Arts Center. Our mother had retained throughout her years, a

vital interest in the Bethel College Women's Association, and we deem it a most thoughtful and loving expression on your part to help to furnish the beautiful lounge in her memory.

Sincerely grateful,
Mildred H. Brandt (Mrs. Leo)

A small plaque was placed in the lounge in memory of Mrs. Haury.

On the surface it may have seemed that BCWA was proceeding as usual, but it was a difficult period in the Association's history. It was increasingly hard to find persons willing to serve in leadership positions. Some who had been faithful workers from the beginning felt burned out and thought younger persons should take over. More women began working outside the home, decreasing the pool of volunteers. There was resentment that younger faculty women and wives didn't seem to have the concerned interest in the Association that earlier ones had. Too much of the work and emphasis was given by Newton and North Newton, with outlying churches largely ignored and non-Mennonite constituency almost non-existent.

The governing board had come to the place where there was little joy in serving and much fatique in contemplating the future. After lengthy and numerous discussions, they agreed by consensus on March 66, 1968, to recommend the dissolution of the Bethel College Women's Association at the end of that school year.

Throwing a challenge directly to the college, the board suggested "that if the college administration felt it should be continued, they should firmly request it together with suggestions on what its purposes should be and how it might be reorganized."

On April 15, 1968, a special meeting was called to evaluate the situation. In attendance was President Orville Voth, director of development Merle Bender, BCWA executive committee, their representative on the Bethel board of directors, the president of the Western District Women's Organization, and a member at large of the Association.

Discussion centered around the possibility of restructuring the Association. Closer ties with Western District Missionary Organization was mentioned. They wondered what ways of support other than the serving of banquets could be given, and whether men ought to be included in the Association. Would an advisory council to the president be an option?

The conclusion of the meeting, according to the secretary, was that plans should be explored in more depth before the Association ceases to function. She reported "these suggestions might then be brought to the organization in the fall for final action."

However, the executive committee appparently was not convinced this would accomplish anything. At the annual business meeting one week later the following resolution was presented:

> RESOLVED, that at the close of the 1967-68 fiscal year the Women's Association of Bethel College, organized in 1934, cease to exist as a separate organization, but that appropriate elements of the organization be retained and incorporated into the Parent's Association, now being formed by the college.
> Among the reasons for this proposed action, the following seem most pertinent:
>
> 1. At the time of organization there was need for a group willing to serve larger banquets and this was a financially successful endeavor. Many sociological changes have occurred in the more recent affluent years. Food services in Newton are now able to take care of most dinners and would appreciate the business. Women formerly were not employed outside of the home as much as they are now and could give more time to this kind of voluntary service. An intense loyalty and dedication, growing out of the depression years, also existed earlier.

2. There is not a close relationship between those attending the meetings and those who help with physical labor of the Women's Association. Aside from the fact that it is difficult to secure officers and workers, the public relations value is questionable when there are tensions among those who give the voluntary service, perhaps more out of a feeling of duty or obligation than of goodwill.

3. With regard to the programs of the Women's Association, there are various kinds of competition. The high quality of many programs provided for the public at Bethel makes it difficult for the Association to compete for people's attention with a program of similar quality. College activities, as well as outside conflicting programs, sometimes conflict with Women's Association programs. It is difficult to plan for meetings in Krehbiel Auditorium when the room will be free. There is the question of practicalness of typing up the use of Krehbiel Auditorium for a group generally 35-75 in number, and of lighting and heating it for this size group.

4. The Women's Association has always been somewhat of a loose-knit organization in that "any woman who is interested in the welfare of the college" was a potential member. With the formation by the College of a Parent's Association, it is felt that this new group would have a closer relationship with the College and could better function in promoting the best interests of the college.

While the Women's Association as such would not continue to exist, members of the Association pledge their continuing loyalty to the college in the future, to be evidenced by moral,

financial and prayer support as well as other services the individuals may be called upon to render.

Fifty-seven members were in attendance at that supper meeting in the Bethel College Mennonite Church, which began with the usual committee reports. When the resolution was presented, there was immediate reaction. The problems were obvious, but there was reluctance to bring the association to an end, although many admitted they were no longer in a position to help with the physical involvements of the group. Reshape it, if necessary, but don't let it go was the prevailing mood. In the ballot vote which followed, the resolution lost by a vote of 43 to 7.

The women adjourned to the Fine Arts Center for the program and intermission, but the discussion didn't stop. When they returned, a motion was made "that a committee be a appointed by the present chairman, Mrs. DeWayne Pauls, a committee that would include herself and the president of the college, to study during the summer months feasible ways in which the Women's Association could be continued and that a recommendation(s) be brought to the Association in the fall."

At the special meeting called for September 30, 1968, President Voth suggested BCWA might become an advisory board similar to the newly organized Advisory Council to the president composed of business men from Newton. "This would need to be a group of women who are completely committed to the needs of the college and would be interested in a deeper kind of involvement," wrote the secretary. A committee was appointed to revise the constitution accordingly after the group agreed to try a new format.

Because the nominating committee had not prepared a slate of officers for the following year assuming there would be no need, the president, secretary, and treasurer were asked to continue in their roles.

It was over a year before the appointed committee met in late Fall of 1969, and an additional six months would pass before they would come to the Association with a new recommendation.

By April 20, 1970, the committee was ready to present their suggestions. Dr. Edna Kaufman, chairperson, explained

the recommended constitutional revisions necessary to make an association council to head BCWA. Sixty women were present, 50 of whom would vote to adopt the recommendations.

The new constitution called for the officers to be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The Association council was to consist of representatives of women's mission organizations, Western District and Pacific Districts, as well as persons elected and appointed by the council itself. In an effort to have closer ties with the college, the annual meeting was to coincide with the college board meeting in the Fall. The $1 membership fee and $25 lifetime membership fees were retained. Minor adaptations were made in committee duties.

It was pointed out that the representation from Western and Pacific districts would mean more effort would be made to work through the women's groups of the conferences. Pacific District would later reply that because of high travel costs their representation would not be possible. For a couple of years Marianne Habegger of California attended meetings as an unofficial representative when she came to Newton with her husband, who was on the Bethel board at that time. Mariannne told the council that Pacific District women would try to contact each woman in the district to familiarize all with the college, and that every effort would be made to help out wherever they could.

Dr. E. G. Kaufman, "father" of the Association, spoke appreciatively of the organization's work, as did President Orville Voth.

It is safe to assume there were still a number of women who were not convinced everything would work out well in the new arrangements, but a step forward had been taken.

III.
UPSWING

A majority vote to continue Bethel College Women's Association did not automatically remove its problems. What was to be the real purpose of the BCWA? How could that be achieved? That was the riddle that had to be solved.

Women felt they could provide a service to the college which the new Parents' Organization, the alternative suggested, could not. They thought they could offer continuity while the Parents' Organization would have a changing membership as sons and daughters left the college years. BCWA would have a broader focus, and some had been convinced that the dissolution of their organization might create more problems than it would solve.

Questions asked included the following. What shape is the reconstructed Women's Association to take? What function are we to fufill? they asked themselves. How best can we do this? Are we organized to put on meetings for a larger group of women? Will they be educational or entertaining? Are we to serve as a sounding board for complaints, criticism, and questions by other women? Are we to try to emphasize the development of a clearer relationship and understanding between women and the college? Between community and college? Minority groups and college? Where do we go from here?

Much credit must be given to Dr. Edna Kaufman as being the prod for a rejuvenated Association. She led the council through lengthy processing sessions. Dr. Edna called meetings, appointed contact persons, invited people to meet at her home, repeatedly furnished refreshments, pushed and promoted. Around and around went the discussions. Progress appeared slow to the consultant committee, but gradually the picture cleared and the future began to look more hopeful.

Several key changes set directions for the new BCWA. Monthly community meetings were dropped, as was the serving of meals for fund raising. The base of the Association was to be broadened, first through the systematic establishment of contact women in all of the churhes of the Western District Conferences, and later through a new constitution.

Women were challenged to learn more specifically about the program of the college, and to become involved in actively encouraging young people to attend Bethel. There was a strengthened belief in the need to promote and vigorously support Bethel College.

When the revised constitution was accepted in 1975, the most obvious change related to this enlarged base of involvement. Instead of including women of Newton and vicinity only, the new constitution included representatives of Mennonite Churches of the Western and Pacific district conferences. The enlarged council called for an election of six persons from these conferences, six elected by the Association and six appointed by the council, and ex officio members in addition to the elected members. A further bylaw limited the terms of officers and members to two consecutive terms. The "governing board" was changed to "association council." "Projects" became "undertakings," but there was little apparent difference in meaning. Missing was any attempt to specifically include faculty wives, women instructors and staff, except for the wives of president and dean.

Stressing the need for flexibility in the constitution, the revision committee wrote, "The constitution should serve us, not us the constitution." What was new was the deliberate outreach to those beyond the official council.

Four large "undertakings" were to breathe new life into the Association over the next decade: WEB Day, centennial cookbook, Fall Fest and wheat projects.

The first new venture attemption to involve women and inform them of the college's program was Women-Enrolled-At-Bethel, WEB Day. When the Association first began discussing the new involvement in January 1971, they talked about a women's retreat on campus, but no decision was reached. Yet two months later on March 26 and 27 the first WEB Day was initiated. They would recognize later that they had tried to do too much too soon without adequate publicity or preparation.

Forty women attended that first WEB retreat from one-third of the Western District churches. A program was planned to include 26 hours on campus. Enrolllment for the first day began at 9:30 a.m. Friday morning, and the weekend experience ended Saturday noon.

Thirty women stayed at Warkentin court for the night. They went to convocation and attended class sessions of their choice. At meal times students escorted them to the dining hall, providing a time of mutual sharing of concerns. In the afternoon there were group sessions at Warkentin about the relationship of church and college. Most of the group attended the college opera in the evening and had a brief social hour with faculty members and their spouses. On Saturday there were continued dicussions and lessons followed by buzz sessions.

"Questions came thick and fast about every aspect of college life, indicating a deep interest on the part of women present and the communities they represented," reported the MENNONITE WEEKLY REVIEW. "The group expressed deep appreciation for these sessions, commented on the friendliness and courtesy of the students, and expressed the desire to make this an annual affair, hoping that different women can come each year so that many people may become thoroughly involved with and learn to know Bethel College."

Robert Regier later designed an emblem for WEB Day, its simple lines becoming part of the advertising.

WEB Day in 1972 attracted only 27 persons. More serious study of WEB was called for, and the committee asked the Association to define the purpose of such a forum.

In the following year, 1973, WEB was bypassed because of Association involvement in providing food for the state music festival contestants who were meeting at the college.

"Continuing Education for Women" was the theme proposed by a committee headed by Phyllis Carlson in August 1973. The goal of the committee was "To get a number of women interested in the possibility that continuing education is for them; is exciting and stimulating and can add new dimensions to their living. To help them realize they are capable of such learning no matter what age-level." The

committee recommended scholarships might be set up to encourage persons to become active in Bethel's continuing education program. No action was taken at that time. However, "Continuing Education for Women" became the theme for the next WEB Day.

WEB Day of 1974 provided a noticeable switch in direction. The day was scheduled for interterm instead of March. Rather than focusing on Bethel as had the two earlier Web Days, women were given a choice of 3 classes to attend: Decade Relived, 1874-1884, taught by Alvin Beachy; Causes of Human Conflict, taught by Dr. Duane Friesen; and History and Literature of Black Africa, taught by Drs. Anna and Jim Juhnke. The advertising flyers also promised art and recreation in the afternoon, which included the first wheat weaving demonstration.

In the evaluation slips participants filled out were requests for more than one course to choose in the future. That was the impetus needed, and in following years as many as 16 were offered. To name just a few of the classes since then and to indicate their varying natures, one could list U.S. Foreign policy, Wok cookery, women and loneliness, pencil drawing, quilt workshops, children's books, hymn singing, aerobics, inflation, wheat weaving, computers, bread baking, watercolors, antique jewelry, creative writing, readers' theater workshop, care of foliage and flowering house plants, alternative lifestyles and world hunger, tennis workshop, China, what does the Bible really say about women, peace studies seminar, inking in gold leaf, Book of Revelation, nuclear energy, and many more.

At a meeting of the BCWA council president and Bethel College's continuing education office personnel in January 1983, the suggestion was again made that BCWA needed to ask what WEB was all about. It was not a new question, but one that needed to be looked at again. How to use more college people to give Bethel more visibility was another idea that needed to be pursued. As WEB had gone increasingly to a "hands on" experience, the number of college people used had declined.

A direct outgrowth of WEB classes was a request for additional short term subjects to be taught at the college. The first of these was called ABC's of financial Planning,

taught in the winter of 1980. "This was the first of anticipated future daytime courses for women, with plans already being made to repeat the course on financial planning in the fall. It grew out of the January Women-Enrolled-at-Bethel (WEB) Day course on inflation and how it affects women," the NEWTON KANSAN noted.

A mini-course committee was appointed by BCWA to plan future courses. The class on financial planning was repeated in the Fall along with one on U.S. foreign policy, and a history course entitiled, "The King is dead! Long live the King!" The committee continued to arrange for classes in spring and fall until in March 1983 with light enrollments, they recommended mini-courses be turned over to the college as part of their continuing education program under the auspices of their director. BCWA would function in an assisting capacity as called for.

In 1984, WEB had its largest enrollment to date with 344 persons attending to take part in 11 classes, two taught by college personnel. The MENNONITE WEEKLY REVIEW of Jan. 26 reported: "It takes teamwork to make something like this happen," said Ethel Abrahams, BCWA's chairperson. "No one person could do it alone." Abrahams noted that one especially exciting aspect of the event was that it drew women to Bethel's campus who are normally unfamiliar with campus activities.

In the same issue, Miller Stayrook, director of community education at Bethel, observed that WEB Day offers a time for cross-over between local communities and the college.

WEB is unique in one important aspect for BCWA. When the earliest Association members thought about interesting people of the area in Bethel, they asked them to help in projects, a sort of job assignment to involve them. That was the pattern continued through most of its history. In WEB the Association was a gift giver, offering to the women a chance to spend an enjoyable day augmenting knowledge and skills in classes of their choice. Increasing support and involvement in WEB Day would indicate it is a welcome experience.

Melting Pot

COOKBOOK was the big word that would be heard again and again in the early seventies. The year 1974 was an important anniversary for many area Mennonite churches. Migrations from Europe in the 1870's brought thousands of Mennonites to the prairie states and provinces, and the centennial years were occasion for celebration. Within eight years of the coming of the first immigrants to Kansas, there were plans for an institution of higher learning to train church leaders and school teachers for the elementary schools they had already established. Bethel College would be that source of higher education in the coming years, so celebration in the centennial years included the college.

A natural part of festivities women well knew was good food. BCWA began to explore the possibility of publishing a cookbook featuring ethnic Mennonite recipes. On March 16, 1972, the finance committee had suggested raising funds with such a book to tie in with the centennial. Dr. Edna Kaufman was appointed as committee head to pursue the idea.

Eight months later BCWA was still talking cookbook at their meetings, without too much visible progress. This time a letter was read from Dr. Cornelius Krahn telling them of the large number of Mennonite cookbooks already in print and including suggestions of what not to do in producing a new book.

In the brainstorming sessions, the committee decided that the cookbook must be representative of all Mennonite groups in the Bethel area: Pennsylvania German, South German, Swiss, Swiss Galacian, Swiss Volhynian, Hutterite, The Netherlands, West Prussian, Polish Michalin, Ostrog and Russian. One of the members suggested representative Mennonite cookery ought to include recipes from Mennonites of overseas cultures, but that appeared too difficult to handle. Emphasis focused on the groups more or less around the college.

The committee wanted to make sure the recipes were old, a genuine part of the heritage of those groups. When a subsequent buyer asked if the recipes in the book had been tested, she was laughingly told they'd been tested for a hundred years.

Dr. Cornelius and Hilda Krahn became consultants for the project, helping with manuscript reading and guiding the committee. Dr. Krahn offered invaluable assistance in background emphasis of the cookbook. His historian's sense had some problems with suggesting the recipes all came out of the one century the book claimed. He wrote, "After all, the collectors had to reach far back into the history of cookery of each of the ethnic groups...The melting pot of recipes, however, really originated in West Prussia, which at times belonged to Germany and at other times to Poland whence Mennonites spread into the interior of Poland and ultimately to Russia. Similarly, some of the Swiss and South German Mennonites and Amish and Hutterites spread to Russian Poland and Russia. Here most of them accepted borscht, the symbol of the melting pot, in one or another variety."

Coupled with the recipes was some history of the cooperating groups. Women from each background were represented on the planning committee, which eventually numbered 22 persons.

Drawings or sketches would enliven the book, the committee felt, and the artists chosen were Mennonite women. Avis Brandt of Dutch heritage and Esther Foth of the Swiss Volhynians furnished the art work.

The committee met about twice a month studying recipes of breads, cakes, cookies, candy, cheese, desserts, dumplings, fowl, meats, pastry, preserving, salads, sauces, soups and vegetables. They pooled histories for the unique cookbook, learned more about each ethnic group, criticized and evaluated. By August 1973 they could report most of the recipes had been collected, and stories and histories had been written for nine of the groups represented.

"It was a step in faith, for all were novices in writing or putting a book together," wrote Dr. Edna Kaufman.

Choosing a name for the collection of recipes was another major hurdle, but finally MELTING POT OF MENNONITE COOKERY (1874-1974) was agreed upon. On the cover of the book was a sketch of a large pot of borscht, symbol of the melting pot. A circle of names of the contributing groups surrounded it.

In one of the many decisions to be made, Dr. Schultz recommended that the Women's Association be the publisher and have the copyright to the book. Thus BCWA entered the publishing field and launched one of the largest projects of its history. When the BCWA held their August meeting and got their first glimpse of the book, "all were in accord as to its merit and general appeal!" The secretary's minutes stating that "some time" was spent in viewing the book was doubtless an understatement, as everyone wanted to read the different sections of the book.

MELTING POT appeared in Spring 1974 but was not heavily marketed until Fall, when within six weeks all copies were sold. Three more printings were called for, a total of 20,000 books, the last printing being in 1983.

"May you find within the following pages a dedication to our common Anabaptist Mennonite background and to the art and joy of food preparation," wrote Edna (Ramseyer) Kaufman in the foreword on behalf of the Women's Association. It would be interesting to count the numbers of those who did, were that possible.

Fall Fest

When Dr. Harold Schultz became president of Bethel College, he saw the value of earlier Fine Arts and Folk Festivals as a college-community experience. The name of the continuing celebration became Bethel College Fall Festival, often referred to as Fall Fest.

Excited about the many possibilities of contributing, Women's Association enthusiastically became partners with the college in the Fest.

In the first of the new festivals in 1972, the group was asked to have a booth featuring Mennonite traditional baked foods for sale. The committee asked area church women to provide homemade noodles, poppyseed rolls, pfeffernuesse, rogge brot or zwiebach to be sold in a booth located between the Administration and Fine Arts buildings. "This should be something new and different, "wrote the secretary. It was also successful, as all the food was sold out by noon; the foods chairperson recommended to the next year's committee that they "plan on much more than expected."

To arrange for the unexpectedly large turnout of participants, BCWA had to tap the resources of area people to help, rather than doing it themselves. The foods chairperson felt extra stress needed to be made in local churches on the importance of cooperation and participation, and the warm letter of appreciation following 1973's Fall Fest indicates that occurred.

Expansion was again visible at the 1974 Festival, billed as the centennial festival. In addition to the noon luncheon and bake sale, Swiss cheese and bulk sales of sausage and liverwurst were featured at Memorial Hall.

The MELTING POT OF MENNONITE COOKERY made its debut, and in the following year was further promoted at Fest by cooking demonstrations of some recipes in the home economics room.

New also was a concession stand at Kidron Cottage, but Kidron was ill-equipped to handle all the electrical appliances needed there for the day. Huge roasters of meat mixture had been cooked at the college church on the day before and carried to Kidron, not unlike the early days of Association meal preparation. From the two electric outlets on the walls snaked numerous extension cords on counter and floor. The overloaded circits kept burning out frequently and delays were inevitable. Women were not anticipating the early coffee drinkers who came to be served long before they were ready, and the serving counter was crowded with waiting people. Through the persistence of the chairperson who wrote requests in triplicate, the following year found extra outlets in place.

One quilt was sold at the auction on the steps of Memorial Hall, and until 1979 auctions were advertised as "quilt auctions", with donations by church groups and individuals.

In expressing their appreciation, the committee wrote to the cooperating churches, "Something happened to the Bethel Community that such a large group of women could work together in Christian fellowship fostering a renewal of the Bethel spirit."

Profits of the sales were given for the renovation of the kitchen dishwashing area, and the following year for a new dishwasher.

After the festival one of the workers wrote to the BCWA food chairperson, "Just a note from the Borscht dept. It was a good day! But were we ever tired!" Another wrote, "Those who were there from 9 a.m. had no energy left for cleaning up...Perhaps we need a special cleanup crew."

In the evaluation session, an individual wondered whether a farmers' market where people could buy vegetables should be added.

As could have been anticipated, 1975 Fall Fest saw a "farmers' market and country store" on the green. A pit barbecue was an added attraction. Forty women were named to the BCWA food sale committee as the project grew.

In their thanks to the many workers who made it all possible that year, the foods committee wrote: "Congratulations! You have completed an excellent piece of work. Compliments have flowed freely and need to be relayed to each of you. Cooperation is the word, for without it such an undertaking could not have begun...Everyone had tired feet and happy hearts. Thank you for your cooperation, hard work, and the hand of friendship."

The following year saw an attempt made to have noon food lines move faster by serving one menu on the main floor of Memorial Hall and a second in the basement. Attendance was uneven with six times as many people eating on the main floor, so the double menu was dropped for the following year.

MELTING POT OF MENNONITE COOKERY again received emphasis, but in a different way. A quilt made using sketches from the book was a best seller at auction.

Grumblings and complaints surfaced from time to time about the work involved, and suggestions were given to make the jobs easier. A frustrated BCWA treasurer wrote, "People ask me, how much did we make at Fall Festival? I don't have the faintest idea. Things should be charged to Bethel College Women's Association, and not to Bethel College. Charge slips should be picked up and handed to the treasurer. Then the bills could be paid, and we would know how we came out."

Memorial Hall workers complained about the countless times they had to carry foods up and down the stairs, a

problem that was automatically corrected when the student center and gym were built later. Harrassed cashiers said they didn't have enough money for change, and some people moaned that the free festival was losing out to a money-making fair. BCWA tried to make adjustments and continued to plan for the next Fest.

Fall Festival of 1977 listed as responsibilities of BCWA the country store, Kidron Cottage concessions, Fast House open house, bake sale, wheat weaving sales and demonstrations, quilt making, bread and jelly on the green, cookbook sales, cold drinks, auction, demonstration of cookbook recipes, noon meal, and the evening barbecue.

From that year on attempts were made at the auction to follow the theme set by the college for Fall Fest. Antiques were specialty items looked for by the committee, and some furniture refinishing helped bring new life to old treasures. Quilts and crafts items donated by friends were still called for. Before the 1982 Fest, BCWA council members made a quilt to be sold at auction which featured sketches of Kansas wildflowers drawn by Esther Foth, Lois Deckert and Mary Ann Preheim.

Begun in 1979 part of the day's picture not on the income side of the ledger was the Association's providing free meals to prospective students brought on campus through the college's SEE program.

Clearly, involvement was increasing, and many would have agreed with an opinion expressed in one evaluation session following Fall Fest: "Can the size and complexity be contained? We have a hold of a tiger's tail and it's hard to let go."

As the Festival continued to attract more participants annually, the work of the Association grew not so much in new forms of cooperation, but in quantity. Included in the receipts of the 1983 Fest were those from the Swiss German noon meal, cookbooks and aprons, the Schmeck Haus, sausage and cheese sales, Kidron Cottage New Year's Cookies, the country store, auction, wheat weaving, and barbecue. In the plans for 1984 was a quilt designed by a Bethel senior who was awarded a prize by BCWA for her creative star design. It complemented the festival theme, "Up, up and away!"

Fall Festival continues to be one of the areas of greatest involvement of Women's Association and persons of surrounding communities, and one of its chief fund raisers.

Not all "undertakings" in the 70's and 80's were the size of Fall Fest and WEB. Wedged between regular activities most of the years were the special appeals. Without budget or long term goals, the Association was particularly vulnerable to the soft sell, rarely turning down a request. In an effort to involve area persons in the early 1970's, for example, several workdays on campus were called for. Help was needed to clean up flower beds and start plants on campus. Another time workers were called to paint and wallpaper a room in the Administration building before the opening of school. Dormitory cleanup days were scheduled. Some of the projects were what the minutes delicately called "semi-successful."

A more satisfying venture was the project of 1972-73 to raise cash for renovating Room 213 of the Administration building, Miss Honora Becker's room. The renovation called for a complete face-lifting. The Association took advantage of Hutchinson's Centennial Day to have a pie, cake and ice cream stand there as a fund raiser. "A good spirit was shown by women from churches in the Hutchinson area. Forty gallons of homemade icecream, 40 fruit pies and several dozen cakes were donated and served," reported the MENNONITE WEEKLY REVIEW. "The public seemed to enjoy this immensely, and a real feeling of nostalgia and fun was experienced by those who visited the stand as well as those who dipped the ice cream and served the pie and cake." Net profit was $283.53.

In 1975 Women's Association was again called to the assistance of women students of the college, even though their constitution no longer recommended such specific help. As had many schools, Bethel had begun an athletic program for women with low budget priorities. New uniforms were apparently among the non-essentials.

D.C. Wedel wrote to the Association on March 14, 1975, stressing that his letter was a personal one, not in his

official capacity. He said: "Next year the girls teams will be in KCAC sports in three areas - basketball, volleyball and one other sport. I am worried about how they will look when they appear on the floor. Would the Women's Association be able to set aside $500 or plan a special project for the girls' athletics?...Other colleges like Southwestern, McPherson, Sterling, Bethany and likely others will provide athletic scholarships for girls. We will likely not do this. but could we help them with athletic equipment?"

Two months later BCWA "Moved that BCWA give a minimum of $500 to the Women's Athletic Fund of Bethel College for uniforms and warmups, with the stipulation that the girls in that department help with the wheat weaving booth for the 1975 Fall Festival. Any proceeds over $500 will be given to that department."

Two smaller fund raisers of this period would also qualify as undertakings, one an experience at Kansas State Fair, and the other at Mennonite World Conference.

Kansas State Fair in 1976 and 1977 provided an opportunity to have a booth to sell MELTING POT OF MENNONITE COOKERY. In the process, women learned about the complications accompanying such sales. However, they reported a gross income of $1,483.31 the first year. The second year they added sales of wheat weaving books and note stationery, but the total sales were less than half as much as the previous year. That was reason enough to discontinue.

Designing note stationery and postcards was another project of the 70's. The largest sale of 1100 recipe postcards was at Mennonite World conference in Wichita in 1978. Note stationery sold more slowly, and only one printing was called for.

The call of the secretary in 1968 for women who "would be interested in a deeper kind of involvement" found ready response year after year, as the Association moved ahead.

Eight Ounces of Gold

The year 1974 brought not only the Melting Pot of Mennonite Cookery to the Bethel campus, but a new art of working with

wheat. Mennonite centennial observances renewed interest in the history of the area, and in the pioneers who 100 years earlier had settled on the prairie. They were characterized as a people of the land, and one of their gifts to Kansas was Turkey Red wheat, a hard winter wheat that would become the parent stock of many varieties.

In keeping with emphasis on Turkey Red, WEB day had as one of its features a workshop conducted by a Western Kansas woman working decoratively with wheat. The class inspired those who attended with wanting to learn more, so BCWA scheduled a workshop on June 25, 1974, for those eager learners. Twenty-one women attended the class where they were taught to make simple ornaments to be sold at Fall Fest to the many people who wanted centennial mementos. Wheat weaving seemed not only a timely product for wheat-rich Kansas, but an appropriate symbol for Bethel's centennial observance as well.

Two of the women in that class who became expert weavers would lead BCWA to involvements they could not have foreseen at that point. Carolyn Schultz and Adelia Stucky collaberated in 1977 to write an illustrated text called Wheat Weaving Made Easy. The attractive book with its simple instructions interested others wherever sold and provided many contacts for the first customers when the Association entered the field of wheat packaging sales later.

For Fall Fest 1978 some Turkey Red Wheat had been planted near Moundridge expressly for wheat weavers. An article in the MOUNDRIDGE JOURNAL of June 29 showed a photograph of five women cutting wheat with hedge trimmers. "Anyone is welcome to cut wheat for themselves if they will cut an equal amount for Fall Festival," said Adelia Stucky.

When Carolyn Schultz went to California with her husband on his sabbatical, she taught classes on wheat weaving and soon discovered that good quality wheat was hard to find. Upon her return home she explained to BCWA her idea for a wheat packaging business as fund raiser, confident there was a market for the product. In February 1979 the Association adopted the idea, apparently by acclaim since there was no official motion, to enter a business for which they had more enthusiasm than know-how. Schultz would later characterize the Association's move as "decision followed by action."

Within four months with an old binder supplied by a supporter in Pretty Prairie, 3 1/2 acres of donated wheat were cut and bound, a rent-free building in Newton was readied for storage and work, and the bundles were hung. The chief virtue of the building was that it was available, but getting the bundles hung in the scorching attic was a laborious and energy consuming job.

Because buying in quantity was cheaper, the women ordered 1500 cartons to ship the wheat. It was an "unbelievable mountain" of boxes, and as the lengthy unloading took place more than one wheat buff must have wondered how they could have imagined selling that many. They did, however, and ordered more cartons subsequently, their early judgment vindicated. Sales that first year offered enough encouragement for the project to proceed.

"'Kansas Gold' in eight ounce packages is being shipped to states from New Hampshire to Oregon by the Bethel College Women's Association in their newest fund raising project for Bethel College. 'Kansas Gold' is hand picked, premium quality wheat for weaving." The HUTCHINSON NEWS and other area papers provided good coverage for the new business, and in each article the Association carefully explained that all profits went to Bethel College.

For their second harvest, 1980, there was no binder available, so like Ruth of old, women went forth to cut wheat with a swather and to tie the bundles by hand. Unlike Ruth, they were followed by the press and a photographer. Unwelcome rain interrupted the harvest, but when the sun came out the women posed for the photographer. A full color picture in the WICHITA EAGLE of June 29 showed the reapers in action. Unfortunately, the wet wheat could not be used and the crew moved elsewhere, this time without publicity.

Within that year they were twice forced to move the wheat bundles stored at the building to other rooms because of suspected fire hazard, and the frustrated workers began to think of setting up elsewhere.

One welcome addition in 1980 was the arrival of Albert Gaeddert as manager of the program. Albert was a much apppreciated volunteer whose coming eased the load carried by the committee. In his first report to the group a year

later he said, "It is too profitable an experience to let go by default."

Growing pains characterized 1981. The building was put up for sale, crisis time for the Association. Should the wheat program continue? Where would they go? Should they think about erecting their own facility nearer the college?

When their search revealed no suitable place to move without extensive renovation, the Association voted to erect a metal building on campus to be owned by the college. The cost of $26,000 would provide an 80'x40'x14' building.

In May a celebration dinner for board and wheat committee members was held in the student center. Special thanks and a wheat gift were given to Albert Gaeddert in recognition of his great help to the Association, and to the owner of the first rent-free building. Waldo Friesen was welcomed as second manager of the growing enterprise.

The surprise of the evening for the women was a bright red and yellow newly restored binder made from parts of two old binders by their support crew. It was a fitting climax to the celebration.

"Harvest activity flourished in a unique manner Wednesday afternoon June 16 in a wheat field 1 mile north and 1/2 west of Moundridge," according to the MOUNDRIDGE JOURNAL of June 25, 1981. "Converging on the wheat field with a shiny red rebuilt 1920 McCormick Deering were approximately 30 individuals with one goal in mind--harvest wheat for the Bethel College Women's Association." But once again rain delayed both the harvest and the completion of the new storage building. The wheat was stored here and there as farmers offered shed space for the crop.

By August 12 the building was completed, and the grain was brought in from storage areas to be stacked on the floor of the newly christened CAMPUS GRANARY. An open house for Bethel faculty and staff on September 17 called for quick painting, cleaning, and laying floor with wood salvaged from the museum. The building was a bright spot in an otherwise dreary harvest picture.

Stacking wheat on the floor accompanied by humid weather caused wheat discoloration and much had to be thrown out. It was imperative that some method be found to hang the

wheat to hasten drying. A unique system of pulleys and chains was designed by some auxiliary spouses, who hung the racks using a mile of cable. The setup was a boon to workers who had previously struggled to handle the heavy bundles.

One of the pleasures of the year was that ornaments of woven wheat hung from a Christmas tree in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Women of Kansas, including BCWA members, donated over 200 hand woven ornaments.

Once again it rained at harvest time in 1982, and with continuing high humidity, the wheat was of inferior quality, poor in color, and with very short straw. Was there any way to salvage wheat which would be wasted because of its short length? What could one do with the discolored heads? Repeated experimentation resulted in a system of bleaching the dark grain heads, but the straw would not yield to the same treatment. The treated wheat could be worked into mini shocks and large wreaths designed for packaging in individual kits. A colorful instruction booklet to accompany the proposed kits was drawn up and they were successfully marketed the following season.

Moving into the new building had not resulted in problem free existence for BCWA, although the new was a vast improvement over the old. Unexpected challenges tested the ingenuity of the workers but were resolved through persistent efforts. First there were the mice, "college mice," educated to avoid entrapment. Then there were insects to plague the crew. Humidity and mildew were unappreciated additions, and in 1983 the culprit was a missing power take-off for the binder.

When harvest 1983 came around, eyes anxiously scanned the cloudy skies. Happily for BCWA one field of good wheat near Goessel stood in the sunshine. The Goessel Gazette section of the HILLSBORO STAR-JOURNAL of July 6 credited "Laura Flaming, [who] had noticed the perfect quaility of wheat for artistic weaving purposes." At 1:00 p.m. a full crew of men and women were ready to cut and bind the wheat, but due to a lost power take-off, it was four hours later by the time the binder operators made an inventive substitute. The long afternoon ended with the shocks secure in the Granary at 10:00 p.m.

Another welcome donation by volunteers in 1983 was a concrete sidewalk which improved access to the Granary. The wobbly wooden plank walk was gratefully retired.

Gross receipts for wheat products from August 1983 to April 1984 were over $18,000, pointing to the success of the venture. Ten students working as part of Bethel's work-study program were employed in the Granary in the 1983-84 school year, alleviating some of the need for volunteers. However, BCWA readily acknolwedged that wheat packaging from the beginning was profitable only because labor was donated. The many hours required to produce a fine salable product would have been prohibitive if not donated, and the project could not continue without additional hours given by BCWA members and friends, and the wheat committee in particular.

Association members found rewards not only in quantity of wheat packaged during volunteer hours, but in friendly relationships fostered. The spirit of working together brought satisfaction that more than counteracted periods of frustration. In this undertaking, as in others, it was the cooperation of many willing individuals that marked the accomplishments of the Association.

Special thanks were due the two managers especially. Called "the backbone of the project" in a Bethel College news release, the men were considered indispensable to the ongoing work.

What had been seen at its inception as a promotion of wheat packaging which might last only a short time appeared in 1984 to have no immediate end in sight.

As was pointed out before, the purpose of all fund raising, whether wheat or Fall Festival or banquet service, was to support Bethel College in one form or another. In recent years there has been a selection of projects unlike those described previously. The Association undertakings of earlier years were chosen in advance and publicly promoted in order to raise the amount of money needed. Currently, funds from Fall Fest, cookbook, and wheat packaging are given to different departments of the college in addition to regular contributions for the budget. A partial listing would include the secretarial department, Gospel choir , Mennonite Library and Archives, the nursing program, home economics professorship, maintenance, speech department,

Fine Arts Center piano, Memorial Hall window blinds, and the museum.

The two largest investments of the Association in these two decades were $25,000 given to the development drive, and $100,000 pledged to the centennial drive.

The goals of the college through the years have become the hopes of Women's Association, too.

AN ASSESSMENT

"To develop, promote and intensify the interest
in the welfare of Bethel College among women;
To cooperate in undertakings in behalf of Bethel."

Women who founded Bethel College Women's Association and carried on its programs had noble aims and dreams. Were they achieved? Let's take a little quiz:

Mark one: [ ] Succeeded 100%
[ ] Succeeded most of the time
[ ] Rarely succeeded
[ ] Missed the mark

One could total the money donated by BCWA in the fifty year period of its history as one mark of achievement, but money totals do not take into account inflation and economic factors. Nor do they indicate the number of hours given by hundreds of persons to earn those totals.

Would you measure the worth of an organization by the number of ovens paid for, or dishes bought, or meals served, or budget contributions? Certainly Bethel has never been in a position where extra income was neither needed nor apppreciated. Ovens deteriorate, dishes break, and blinds will need to be replaced. What then will last?

The strength of the Association was dependability. When there was a need for extra support, BCWA was there. When helpers were called for, BCWA was there. When music festival contestants wanted an extra snack, BCWA was there. When dozens of workers were mandated to have a successful Fall Fest, BCWA was there. When cookies and coffee and simple hosting were needed, BCWA was there. The Association represented reliability and the dedication of its members, their reward the joy of accomplishment.

An honor accorded the Association in 1979 recognized these strengths:

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

In appreciation of the creative leadership, special projects and achievement in the areas of scholarship, continuing education, Mennonite cultural heritage, and for your interest and involvement in celebrative events and in improving the quality of life and academic programs on the Bethel campus, this special Distinguished Achievement Award is presented to the Bethel College Women's Association by Bethel College at commencement, May 20, 1979.

Dr. Edna Kaufman, president Women's Association 1970-1974
Mrs. Winifred Ewy, president Women's Association 1975-1978

The award was accepted by the two capable Association presidents named.

It has been easier for Association members to count dollars and cents which are tallied in neat little rows than to take an evaluative look at themselves. Sometimes vision was lacking, clouded by dollars and cents only. Decisions were made too hastily to be unmade a month or two later. Long term goals were often not thought of, as the Association yielded to the pressures of a month at a time. The tiger's tail dilemma is still real.

In their willingness to do more than is asked lies the greatest asset of faithful Association members. Is that good will in limitless supply? It behooves both Bethel College Women's Association and the college to take a hard look.

Acknowledgments

We owe thanks to the following individuals who added to the written record their recollections of Bethel College Women's Association in various points of its history: Joanna Andres, Lucille Brubacher, Lois Deckert, Helen Epp, Monica Gross, Eva Harshbarger, Gertrude Haury, Edna Kaufman, Helen Lingenfelder, Mary Esther Loganbill, Barbara Neufeld, Mary Ann Preheim, Margaret Rich, Erksine Roberts, Ilene Schmidt, Gertrude Schrag, Carolyn Schultz, Anna Siemens, Adelia Stucky, Naomi Wollman.

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BCWA OFFICERS AND GOVERNMENT

(Spouse's initials appear following first mention of officer.)

1934-35

Pres. Linda Haury (R.S.)
1 VP Helene Goertz (P.S)
2 VP Mary Suderman (H.E.)
Sec. Joanna Andres (H.J.)
Treas. Hermina Haury (A.O.)
Martha Goerz (R.A.), Frieda Regier (J.G.), Sister Frieda Kaufman, Helen Duff (A.J.), Hazel Kaufman (E.G.)

1935-36

Pres. Linda Haury
1 VP Blanche Adams (W.G.)
2 VP Lucile Heffelfinger (J.B.)
Sec. Helene Goertz
Treas. Hermina Haury
Martha Goerz, Lulu Regier (J.E.), Deborah Wilder (E.A.), Mary Suderman, Frieda Regier Entz (G.B.), Hazel Kaufman

1936-37

Pres. Lulu Regier
1 VP Mary Suderman
2 VP Deborah Wilder
Sec. Helene Goertz
Treas. Anna Baumgartner (Paul)
Martha Goerz, Frieda Regier Entz, Emma Guy (Ray), Katie Krehbiel (B.P.), Hazel Kaufman

1937-38

Pres. Lulu Regier
1 VP Mary Suderman
2 VP Emma Guy
Sec. Julia B. Adams
Treas. Anna Baumgartner
Martha Goerz, Frieda Regier Entz, Linda Haury, Hazel Kaufman

1938-39

Pres. Anna Baumgartner
1 VP Mildred Brandt (Leo)
2 VP Elizabeth Eells (Dwight)
Sec. Julia B. Adams
Treas. Martha Goerz
Katie Krehbiel, Mary Suderman, Lulu Regier, Hazel Kaufman

1939-40

Pres. Anna Baumgartner
1 VP Lulu Regier
2 VP Elizabeth Eells
Sec. Julia B. Adams
Treas. Martha Goerz
Frieda Regier Entz, Ann Goering (Herb), Wilhelmina Nanninga (J.B.), Hazel Kaufman

1940-41

Pres. Anna Baumgartner
1 VP Lulu Regier
2 VP Elizabeth Eells
Sec. Elizabeth Voran
Treas. Selma Schmidt
Frieda Regier Entz, Ann Goering, Wilhelmina Nanninga, Hazel Kaufman

1941-42

Pres. Esther Schmidt (M.E.)
1 VP Lulu Regier
2 VP Hulda Rich (Willis)
Sec. Elizabeth Voran
Treas. Selma Schmidt
Frieda Regier Entz, Wilhelmina Nanninga, Anna Baumgartner, Hazel Kaufman

1942-43

Pres. Esther Schmidt
1 VP Lulu Regier
2 VP Frieda Regier Entz
Sec. Elizabeth Voran and
Marian Kauffman (R.C.)
Hulda Rich, Sarah Richert (J.H.),
Hazel Kaufman, Anna Baumgartner

1943-44

Pres. Lucille Friesen
1 VP Mildred Brandt
2 VP Hulda Rich
Sec. Anna Baumgartner
Treas. Selma Schmidt
Helen Epp (August), Frieda Regier Entz

1944-45

Pres. Lucille Friesen
Hulda Rich (part time)
1 VP Hulda Rich
2 VP Anna Baumgartner
Sec. Selma Graber (Herman)
Treas. Selma Schmidt
Frieda Regier Entz, Helen Epp

1945-46

Pres. Anna Entz (J.E.)
1 VP Anna Baumgartner
2 VP Helen Epp
Sec. Selma Graber
Treas. Selma Schmidt
Mathilda Goertzen (H.S.), Frieda
Regier Entz, Helen Goertzen,
Sadie Harms (E.M.) part time

1946-47

Pres. Anna Entz
1 VP Hulda Rich
2 VP Frieda Regier Entz
Sec. Linda Kaufman (P.R.)
Treas. Selma Schmidt
Mathilda Goertzen, Martha
Savage (Max)

1947-48

Pres. Anna Entz
1 VP Hilda Krahn (C.)
2 VP Frieda Regier Entz
Sec. Linda Kaufman
Treas. Margaret Suderman
Mathilda Goertzen, Martha Savage

1948-49

Pres. Anna Entz
1 VP Ethel Fast (H.A.)
2 VP Martha Koehn (Galen)
Sec. Sadie Harms
Mary Ann Blosser (R.) part time
Treas. Olga Ensz (H.R.)
Mathilda Goertzen, Frieda Regier Entz,
Agatha Klassen (Al.)

1949-50

Pres. Martha Savage
1 VP Ethel Fast
2 VP Agatha Klassen
Sec. Mary Ann Blosser
Treas. Olga Ensz
Mathilda Goertzen, Anna Baumgartner

1950-51

Pres. Elizabeth Regier (C.C.)
1 VP Ethel Fast
2 VP Martha Graber (Eldon)
Sec. Olga Ensz
Treas. Mildred Pike
Mathilda Goertzen, Anna Baumgartner
Martha Wedel (D.C.)

1951-52

Pres. Elizabeth Regier
1 VP Elga Suderman
2 VP Martha Graber
Sec. Olga Ensz
Treas. Mildred Pike
Martha Wedel, Mathilda Goertzen

1952-53

Pres. Joanna Andres
1 VP Anna Baumgartner Kaufman
2 VP Martha Graber
Sec. Ada Mae Haury (R.A.)
Elizabeth Regier
Treas. Mildred Pike
Anna Epp (J.E.), Olga Ensz

1953-54

Pres. Helen Richert (A.J.)

1 VP Anna Kaufman
2 VP Helen Epp
Sec. Elizabeth Regier
Treas. Mildred Pike
Linda Haury, Phyllis Bixel (James)
Joanna Andres

1954-55

Pres. Gertrude Schrag (Menno)
1 VP Olga Martens (Harry)
2 VP Anna Siemens (J.J.)
Sec. Elizabeth Regier
Treas. Mildred Pike
Linda Haury, Phyllis Bixel
Helen Richert

1955-56

Pres. Gertrude Schrag
1 VP Olga Martens
2 VP Anna Siemens
Sec. Elizabeth Regier
Treas. Mildred Pike
Linda Haury, Ruth Harder (Ernst)

1956-57

Pres. Gertrude Schrag
1 VP Olga Martens
2 VP Anna Siemens
Sec. Elizabeth Regier
Treas. Mildred Pike
Mildred Brandt, Frieda Andreas (Wm.)

1957-58

Pres. Martha Graber
1 VP Olga Martens
2 VP Anna Siemens
Sec. Elizabeth Regier
Treas. Mildred Pike
Mildred Brandt, Frieda Andreas

1958-59

Pres. Mary Ann Preheim (D.V.)
1 VP Mildred Brandt
2 VP Alice Suderman (David)
Sec. Elizabeth Regier
Treas. Mildred Pike
Barbara Neufeld (Edgar)

1959-60

Pres. Anna Ratzlaff (A.K.)
1 VP Mildred Brandt
2 VP Alice Suderman
Sec. Elizabeth Regier
Treas. Lucile Enz
Margaret Rich (Eldon),
Barbara Neufeld

1960-61

Pres. Anna Ratzlaff
1 VP Ilene Schmidt (Hartzel)
2 VP Marguerite Fretz (J.W.)
Sec. Martha Graber
Treas. Lucile Enz
Margaret Rich, Mary Ann Preheim,
Ruth Neufeld (Vernon)

1961-62

Pres. Margaret Rich
1 VP Martha Graber
Gertrude Schrag
2 VP Lucille Brubacher (E.J.)
Sec. Gladys Niles (Clarence)
Treas. Lucile Enz
Lorene Woelk (Rudy), Sarah
Gaeddert (Gus)

1962-63

Pres. Gertrude Schrag
1 VP Lucille Brubacher
2 VP Alice Suderman
Sec. Gladys Niles
Treas. Lucile Enz
Mary Esther Loganbill (Lanoy)
Hildred Wiebe (Herbert)

1963-64

Pres. Lucille Brubacher
1 VP Alice Suderman
2 VP Mary Ellen Meyer (Al)
Sec. Ilene Schmidt
Treas. Lucile Enz
Mary Esther Loganbill, Mariam Schmidt (H.R.), Gertrude Schrag
Ruth Neufeld

1964-65

Pres. Lucille Brubacher
1 VP Mary Ellen Meyer
2 VP Lucille Gering (Wm.)
Sec. Betty Pauls (DeWayne)
Ilene Schmidt
Treas. Herta Willms
Mildred Bumgarner (Don), Gertrude Schrag, Lu Loganbill (Varden), Ruth Neufeld, Linda Guhr (Sam), Marie Banman (Jake), Gladys Niles, Selma Reusser (Gail), Mathilda Goertzen, Mildred Brandt, Hulda Rich, Marie Becker (Roscoe), Hilda Krahn

1965-66

Pres. Lu Loganbill
1 VP Ilene Schmidt
2 VP Betty Pauls
Sec. Mary Ellen Meyer
Treas. Herta Willms
Tena Epp (Arnold), Betty Lou Sturm (Sam), Gladys Niles, Gertrude Schrag, Ruth Neufeld, Lucille Brubacher, Barbara Warkentin (Dave), Anna Unruh (Harrison), Ruth Sawatzky (Victor), Susie Lohrentz (John)

1966-67

Pres. Ilene Schmidt
1 VP Betty Pauls
2 VP Mary Esther Loganbill
Sec. Monica Gross (Harold)
Treas. Herta Willms
Billy Jean Fleming (Jon), Lavonda Claassen (Milton), Lu Loganbill, Ruth Neufeld, Gladys Niles, Mathilda Goertzen, Lois Friesen (Joe), Helen Voth (Orville), Anna Unruh, Vernette Regier (Robert)

1967-68

Pres. Betty Pauls
1 VP Mary Esther Loganbill
2 VP Marie Snider (Howard)
Sec. Monica Gross
Treas. Herta Willms
Martha Linscheid (Al), Helen Voth, Eva Harshbarger (E.L.), Ilene Schmidt, Linda Kaufman, Anna Unruh, Gladys Niles, Jeannette Schmidt (Paul), Ruth Suderman (Robt), Lois Goertzen (Orlando)

1968-69

Pres. Mary Esther Loganbill
1 VP Marie Snider
2 VP Janice Rempel (Wendell)
Sec. Esther Rinner (James)
Treas. Herta Willms
Martha Linscheid, Elma Huxman

1969-70

Pres. Betty Pauls, pro tem
Sec. Monica Gross, pro tem
Treas. Herta Willms, pro tem

1970-71

Pres. Edna Kaufman (E.G.)
VP Ruth Koontz (Elbert)
Sec. Donna Klaassen (Melvin)
Treas. Dorothy Friesen (Abe)
Adelia Stucky (Melbourne), Esther Schmidt, Marianne Habegger (Marden), Jackie Smith (Lloyd), Esther Schrag (John), Betty Funk (Ray), Margaret Rich, Phyllis Carlson (Robt), Mariam Schmidt, Edith Graber (O'Ray)), Helen Voth, Willadene Keeney (Wm)

1971-72

Pres. Edna Kaufman
VP Adelia Stucky
Sec. Donna Klaassen
Treas. Dorothy Friesen
Norma Reime (Hugo), Betty Crabb (Harry) Ruth Peters (Willard), Marianne Habegger, Jackie Smith, Betty Funk, Margaret Rich, Phyllis Carlson, Mariam Schmidt, Edith Graber, Helen Voth, Willadene Keeney, Frankie Toews (Irvin), Ruth Douglass (Andrew), Jane Hershberger (Glen)

1972-73

Pres. Edna Kaufman
VP Adelia Stucky
Sec. Donna Klaassen
Treas. Dorothy Friesen
Margaret Rich, Phyllis Carlson, Mariam Schmidt, Edith Graber, Ruth Linscheid (Willard), Lois Deckert (Marion), Jackie Smith, Esther Schmidt (Walter J.), Ruth Douglass, Jane Hershberger, Norma Reimer, Frankie Toevs, Ruth Peters, Willdene Keeney, Carolyn Schultz (Harold), Betty Crabb

1973-74

Pres. Edna Kaufman
VP Adelia Stucky
Sec. Ruth Douglass
Treas. Ruth Epp
Mathilda Bartel (Roland), Mariam Schmidt, Frances Rempel (Lloyd), Carolyn Schultz, Phyllis Carlson, Frankie Toevs, Margaret Rich, Ruth Peters, Lois Deckert, Teresa Conkey (C.O.), Phyllis Neufeld (Doral)

1974-75

Pres. Winifredd Ewy (Lester)
VP Lois Deckert
Sec. Frances Rempel
Treas. Ruth Epp
Mathilda Bartel, Phyllis Carlson, Anna Grace Flickinger (Virgil), Teresa Conkey Esther Foth (Walter), Lu Loganbill, Martha Goerzen (Alvin), Phyllis Neufeld, Margaret Rich, Carolyn Schultz, Mariam Schmidt, Frankie Toevs, Rosella Toevs (Kenneth), Eunice Esau (Willis), Veda Flickinger (Elmer), Meribeth Claassen (Henry), Lois Regier (J. Stanley)

1975-76

Pres. Winifred Ewy
VP Lois Deckert
Sec. Frances Rempel
Treas. Ruth Epp
Mathilda Bartel, Phyllis Carlson, Anna Grace Flickinger, Lu Loganbill, Eunice Esau, Susan Rhoades (Keith), Rosella Toevs, Teresa Conkey, Veda Flickinger, Meribeth Claassen, Esther Foth, Martha Goerzen, Margaret Rich, Mary Ann Preheim, Hilda Voth (R.D.), Martha Unruh (Earl), Carolyn Schultz, Carol Friesen (Walter)

1976-77

Pres. Winifred Ewy
VP Lu Loganbill
Sec. Frances Rempel
Treas. Ruth Epp
Mathilda Bartel, Anna Grace Flickinger, Eunice Esau, Rosella Toevs, Teresa Conkey, Meribeth Claassen, Esther Foth, Ginny Holstine (Jay), Veda Flickinger, Martha Goerzen, Margaret Rich, Phyllis Carlson, Mary Ann Preheim, Hilda Voth, Martha Unruh, Carolyn Schultz, Carol Friesen, Lois Deckert, Edna Kaufman, Mariam Schmidt

1977-78

Pres. Winifred Ewy
VP Lu Loganbill
Sec. Frances Rempel
Treas. Ruth Epp
Mathilda Bartel, Anna Grace Flickinger, Eunice Esau, Susan Rhoades, Winifred Ewy, Laura Flaming (Randolph), Rosella Toevs, Ginny Holstine, Meribeth Claassen, Veda Flickinger, Esther Foth, Lucille Leisy (Waldo), Marlene Schroeder (Lloyd), Ruth Ann Penner (Willis), Margaret Rich, Phyllis Carlson, Mary Ann Preheim, Hilda Voth, Martha Unruh, Carolyn Schultz, Lois Deckert, Edna Kaufman, Mariam Schmidt

1978-79

Pres. Elda Bachman (Dale)
VP Eunice Esau
Sec. Susan Rhoades
Treas. Laura Flaming
Anna Grace Flickinger, Winifred Ewy, Rosella Toevs, Ginny Holstine, Veda Flickinger, Meribeth Claassen, Esther Foth, Carol Duerksen (Donley), Frieda Entz (Albert), Lorene Goering (J. Hobart), Kaye Penner (Virgil), Lucille Leisy, Ruth Ann Penner, Marlene Schroeder, Margaret Rich, Phyllis Carlson, Carolyn Schultz, Mary Ann Preheim, Hilda Voth, Martha Unruh, Lois Deckert, Edna Kaufman, Mariam Schmidt

1979-80

Pres. Elda Bachman
VP Kaye Penner
Sec. Esther Foth
Treas. Laura Flaming
Phyllis Carlson, Meribeth Claassen, Lois Deckert, Carol Duerksen, Frieda Entz, Eunice Esau, Winifred Ewy, Veda Flickinger, Lorene Goering, Gladys Goering (Elmer), Ginny Holstine, Edna Kaufman, Lucille Leisy, Ruth Ann Penner, Mary Ann Preheim, Susan Rhoades, Margaret Rich, Marlene Schroeder, Carolyn Schultz, Mariam Schmidt, Rosella Toews, Martha Unruh, Hilda Voth

1980-81

Pres. Elda Bachman
VP Kaye Penner
Sec. Mildred Voran
Treas. Laura Flaming
Marna Goering (Verne), Eunice Esau, Winifred Ewy, Elizabeth Reber (James) Rosella Toevs, Meribeth Claassen, Veda Flickinger, Esther Foth, Lucille Leisy, Ruth Ann Penner, Susan Rhoades, Marlene Schroeder, Phyllis Carlson, Carol Duerksen, Dorothea Franzen, Gladys Goering, Mary Ann Preheim, Martha Unruh, Donna Voth (Stanley), Hilda Voth, Carolyn Schultz, Lois Kreider (Robt), Edna Kaufman, Mariam Schmidt

1981-82

Pres. Kaye Penner
VP Rubena Friesen (Dave)
Sec. Anne Thiesen (Walt)
Treas. Laura Flaming
Marna Goering, Barbara Friesen (O.J.), Elizabeth Reber, Pat Rupp (Mark), Deloris Funk (Linford), Mildred Voran (Myron), Ethel Abrahams (Norman), Joanne Klassen (Harold), Lucille Leisy, Marlene Schroeder, Pat Stucky (Ken), Lucille Taylor (Elwyn), Phyllis Carlson, Susan Rhoades, Carol Duerksen, Gladys Goering, Dorothea Franzen, Mary Ann Preheim, Donna Voth, Hilda Voth, Lucille Harms (G. Lester), Carolyn Schultz, Ardith Hinshaw (Robt), Edna Kaufman, Sharon Sommer (John), Mariam Schmidt

1982-83

Pres. Lucille Taylor
VP Ethel Abrahams
Sec. Joanne Klassen
Treas. Anna Thiesen
Marna Goering, Rubena Friesen, Amy Regier (LeRoy), Pat Rupp, Barbara Friesen, Delores Funk, Mildred Voran, Susan Koehn (Charles), Elaine Loganbill (F.C.), Pat Stucky, Delora Decker (Jerry), Susan Rhoades, Bonnie Epp (Weldon), Lucille Leisy, Carol Duerksen, Dorothea Franzen, Gladys Goering, Mary Ann Preheim, Donna Voth, Hilda Voth, Lucille Harms, Carolyn Schultz, Ardith Hinshaw, Edna Kaufman, Mariam Schmidt, Sharon Sommer, Kaye Penner

1983-84

Pres. Ethel Abrahams
VP Delores Funk
Sec. Joanne Klassen
Treas. Anna Thiesen
Rubena Friesen, Tina Block Ediger (Elmer), Amy Regier, Mildred Voran, Susan Koehn, Lenora Gehring (Willard), Lucille Taylor, Dorothy Dick (Dale), Orletta Heide (Marvin), Delora Decker, Bonnie Epp, Susan Rhoades, Lucille Leisy, Carol Duerksen, Gladys Goering, Mary Ann Preheim, Donna Voth, Hilda Voth, Lucille Harms, Carolyn Schultz, Lois Deckert, Edna Kaufman, Mariam Schmidt, Lu Loganbill

BCWA Appointees to the Bethel College Board

Mildred Brandt (Leo) 1964-70
Hulda Rich (Willis) 1962-67
Alma Mast (Russell) 1967-68
Margaret Rich (Eldon) 1968-80
Phyllis Carlson (Robert) 1970-82
Susan Rhoades (Keith) 1980-86
Lucille Leisy (Waldo) 1982-88

Mennonite Library and
meetings the Bethel
Directors gave final